

Karate Club Grows In Popularity

by Christopher Mari

Looking for a club that is right for you? Try the karate club; it's fun and it's a challenge. More than that, it teaches self-defense. (Hear that? **Self-defense.** You don't chop up freshmen with it!) It's loads of fun and also gives you a rundown on the ancient technique of the Orient, an honored skill there, a respected skill. So respect it and your body, and the rest is easy.

Now that I've got you interested, you want the rundown, right? Okay, here's the deal.

They meet every Wednesday (at 1:30), and Saturday (at 11:00). On Wednesday, it lasts from 1:30 to 3:00 and on Saturday it goes on until 12:30. The fee is \$20 a month, which is pretty cheap, considering schools can charge triple that. The moderator is Mr. Piselli of the math department, and the instructors are Nelson Howe and Linda Lutes, who are 4th-degree blackbelts. You need more info? Talk to Mr. Piselli, he'll lend an ear; or come and watch one of the sessions.

Okay, now are you going to join? Good! As for the few too lazy to join, let me say this: go and look. It could teach you enough discipline to get off your duff and stop eating potato chips in front of the boob tube.

Now, you with me?

Jennifer Santos Summers In Russia

by John C. Ryan

You get off the plane and cautiously look around, not quite sure of what you'll see. You've heard so much about this foreign land, and millions of visions are running through your head. Scanning the area, you see cameras hidden behind signs and mysterious looking gentlemen wearing long overcoats. Suddenly, a stern looking soldier, strapped with a semi-automatic machine gun, confronts you. Before you know it, three other men are behind you, "helping" you off with your coat and helping themselves to sort through your luggage. After confiscating your camera, film, walkman and tapes, they present you with a slip, turn and disappear into a black car.

If the average American were asked, "Where is the person described in the preceding paragraphs?" I'd give good odds that most people would say, "Oh, that's easy... Russia."

Most of us who have these stereotypes of the U.S.S.R. have never been there and have never talked to any one who lives there. I may never have been to the U.S.S.R., but a lot of questions I did have about the country were answered when I had the pleasure of talking with Jennifer Santos who visited the re-

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Falcons Win Miss Polonia Contest



Pictured above is Ford's own Margaret Matecka of homeroom 308, who was chosen Miss Polonia 1987 of Greenpoint and represented that section of Brooklyn in the Pulaski Day Parade held on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan on October 4. Katarzyna Drazek of homeroom 304 was the first runner-up in the group of eight contestants.

public for three weeks this past summer.

As you may remember, some of the chancebook money that was raised last year was used to help finance this once-in-a-lifetime, exchange-student trip.

When I inquired how her trip had been, Jennifer smiled and replied simply, "Great!" Her entire group was composed of twenty-four students from New York, fifteen students from Hawaii, and three chaperones.

Jennifer couldn't stop raving about this beautiful land, and the architecture, she said, was equally beautiful and had to be seen to be believed. She enthusiastically spoke of the beautiful churches, which included Saint Basil's, Saint Isaac's (Russian Orthodox), and the beautiful cathedral of St. Elija.

She visited many cities and met people of all ages. She described the younger children as the most outgoing and friendly. People of our own age, teens and high school students, were usually quiet and reserved. People between the ages of 20-30 were more sociable and could be found in the night clubs (yes, night clubs!). The older crowd, we

might say the "senior citizens," are very traditional and do not take to Americans as do the other groups of people. Jennifer spoke of one instance in which a lady in the street started yelling at one of the exchange students because he was wearing shorts.

There is much corruption in Russia, Jennifer told me, as far as public servants go. People, such as maids and taxi drivers, have to be bribed with money, jewelry or even little things such as make-up in order for them to do their jobs to your satisfaction.

I asked Jennifer for two things before we ended the interview. First, I asked her to describe Russia in one sentence. She replied, "An old world country; a federal country with the bomb." Secondly, I asked her to tell me how she would describe Russia to her classmates and friends who have never been there. She said, "It was a very beautiful country. I would go back in a minute, if given the chance." And finally, after a minute of thought, she sighed, "You must have to be there really to understand it."

Peer Groups Reinstated

by Courtney Nash

This year the guidance department is renewing its peer group program for freshman to help make their adjustment to high school a smooth one.

There are one or two selected seniors to a group of about ten or fewer freshmen. The role the seniors play is not to give direct advice, but to be listeners, and to encourage the freshmen to get to know themselves and make their own decisions.

The program was stopped a few years back, although it was successful, because of senior/frosh scheduling conflicts. This year, though, Brother Damian and Miss Raffaniello decided to try it once again, and with the help of Sr. Anne, Mr. Slow, Miss Leggio, Sister Coleen, and Mr. McAteer, their efforts got underway last June.

During the week before school ended, a group of soon-to-be seniors was selected, based on, Sr. Colleen said,

The Induction Ceremony for the National Honor Society and the National Business Honor Society will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, December 7.

"Who, we felt, were well adjusted young adults who liked their school, had good grades, were involved, and would be good role models."

Over the summer, the seniors attended a two-day training session to prepare them to be peer group leaders.

The guidance department is very optimistic about the program. They feel it is advantageous because peers work well with their equals, and the freshmen will find it easy to talk to people close in age who went through the same things a short time ago.

Freshmen reaction has been good so far. According to Sr. Colleen, they "think it's great that the administration gives them time to talk to seniors about their feelings." "But," she adds, "The ones who will most benefit are the group leaders themselves. It gives them a good feeling to help others, and they learn more about themselves as well. It is a very rewarding experience."

Choral Music Classes Initiated At Ford

by Dayann Molina

When you walk down the halls on the second floor this year, you might notice that a stream of "tra-la-la's" is seeping from under the doors of room 271. Upon hearing this, you may be surprised and might stop yourself in order to question the sanity of Ford's students. Don't worry, though, the sounds are only the voices of those enrolled in what may be one of the school's most innovative classes this year, Choral Music.

The new class, taught by Mr. Provenza and supervised by the art department, is the focus of interest for many students, as well as their parents. This is due to the fact that the class was started because of the success of last year's choral group, a club that was started by the Ford students themselves. In fact, many of the group's most promising members are enrolled in the new class.

What exactly does the Choral Music class teach?

"It's not just singing, although the heart of the course is singing and learning to read music," says Mr. Provenza. The class also deals

with the theory, history, playing, and recording of music. It also introduces students to many different types of music: rock, pop, standard liturgical music, and contemporary Christian music (which includes groups like **Stryper**, **Petra**, and **U2**), as well as some songs composed by Mr. Provenza himself.

Choral music isn't like other art classes open to juniors, because it not only teaches you how to understand and appreciate a form of art, it also encourages the students to use what they've learned by performing at school functions and outside school. The Choral Music class will be showing off its musical talent by performing at school masses, awards ceremonies, and possibly even the Dance-A-Thon. It has also been asked to perform at a local grammar school and will be visiting a recording studio during a class trip later this year.

So far, there are a lot of optimistic opinions about Choral Music's future. "I'm hoping that the class is a big success. It seems to have started off well, and the students seem to be enjoying themselves so far," remarked Mr. Provenza, "But there is still a lot of work ahead."

Registration for Ford's annual M.D.A. DANCE-A-THON will begin on November 2. The fee is \$5.00.

New Phys. Ed. Instructor Learning The Ropes

by Dayann Molina

Miss Galizia is the new phys. ed. teacher of most of Bishop Ford's junior girls. She is working as a substitute for Mrs. Lesser (a.k.a. Miss Moffatt), who has taken a one-year maternity leave.

Miss Galizia is originally from Elmhurst, Queens, and graduated from St. Francis College in Brooklyn last February. Before coming to Ford, Miss Galizia coached Cathedral High School's varsity basketball team for two years and later coached basketball at Brooklyn Friends' School, a prestigious private school located in Brooklyn Heights. She is also coaching Bishop Ford's girls' varsity and j.v. basketball teams this year.

In her spare time, Miss Galizia plays in the majors of her parish basketball team, along with other parishioners, ages 18 and up. She also frequents Central Park and downtown Manhattan, and enjoys travelling outside the city on weekends.

So far, Miss Galizia seems to be having a lot of fun working here. When she was asked what she thought of Ford and its students, she said that she was enjoying herself and that she found the students rather nice. However, she did request that a **Highpoint** reporter ask her the same question in another month.

What are the students' feelings towards Miss Galizia? Judging from their responses, they seem to like her as much as she likes them:

"Miss Galizia is someone we can identify with . . . talk to . . . She's really cool," says **Kerri Barbour (301)**. "I'm really looking forward to being in her gym class," comments **Beth McGovern (308)**.

"I don't really know her all that well," says **Maria Dabreo (303)**. "But she seems pretty nice . . ."

"Miss Galizia is friendly—she's competent, and she seems to get along well with the students," observes **Richela Fabian (304)**.

All newcomers are concerned with giving others a good impression, and it looks as though Miss Galizia has already succeeded.

The National Business Honor Society will sponsor a canned food drive for the needy families of our community beginning on **Monday, November 2** and extending through **Tuesday, November 24**. There will be a deposit box in the main lobby.

Judge Robert Bork: A Word In His Behalf

by Clara Swords

This spring President Reagan nominated Robert Bork, a well known judge, for a seat on the Supreme Court. He was nominated because Reagan both trusted and agreed with Bork's conservative views. These views are what are now getting him so much attention.

Every liberal group is coming out in opposition to him. As you know, Bork is now going through the confirmation hearings; many of us know the famous judges (senators) who are judging Bork. This cast includes Senator Ted Kennedy. Back in the 60's he was a popular man in Chappagooudic.

Another cast member is Senator Joseph Biden. Recently he resigned his campaign for the 1988 presidential election. It was uncanny how he copied his speeches. Biden also told the press that he had graduated at the top of his class in law school, when in truth he had graduated at the bottom.

Bork is a good man and should be confirmed. His views have changed since he was a younger man. Benjamin Franklin said that as a young man he had a host of beliefs and views that changed totally as he grew older and acquired more knowledge. Most people's views do change as they get older. There is no reason why these men, with their backgrounds, should stand in judgment of him and not let Bork become a judge on the Supreme Court.

Senior Leaders Assist Freshmen In Adjusting To High School

by Karin Bentsen

Starting this year at Bishop Ford High School is Peer Group.

Peer Group consists of senior and freshman students who meet and talk among themselves, while the senior leaders listen and try to help the freshmen cope with anything troubling them. This description was given by Jimmy Montalvo, a leader, with the assistance of Paul Carusso, both seniors.

I asked Jimmy what made him want to get involved in Peer Group:

"It sounded interesting, and it's something new that I've never done before."

So you think a Peer Group would have been helpful to you when you were a freshman? How?

"I guess so—in the same way, it would have helped us with our problems. It would have helped us to open up to the seniors and everyone else around."

How does it feel to know that you can be making a difference in a person's first year at high school?

"Hopefully the freshmen will remember me as their Peer Group leader who meant something to them in terms of relieving some of their problems."

The Peer Group was organized last year when seniors (at the time, juniors) were asked to volunteer for next year.

The group meets once a week for one period, and there are about ten students to a group.

NYCTALOPIA?

by Carolyn Rodriguez

On a scale from 5 ★:

"Where the Streets Have No Name" — U2; Island

There must be millions of people suffering from nyctalopia after hearing this. The synthesizers are excellent, no doubt about that, but the vocal emotion Bono (lead singer) has on this single is perhaps a bit misplaced. This could be a song for the running man or woman. This could also be a song for the 5 o'clock rush hour.

It won't go all the way, as did the previous two singles from the album, but it's sung in true U2 style.

So if you decide to put on your headphones, and the volume is on full blast, by the time you finish listening to this song . . . let's not think about what could happen!

"Who Will You Run To" — Heart; Capitol 5★

Let's face it . . . **Heart** is a great band! The synthesizers are great, the guitars are great, and the vocals are definitely the best. Ann Wilson can sing like no other vocalist. She's unique! She's the best! **Heart** is definitely No. 1.

"Causin' A Commotion" — Madonna; Sire 0★

Who needs another Madonna song?

"Women" — Def Leppard; Mercury 5★

Welcome back, boys. You're ridin' high again!

"Paper in Fire" — John Cougar Mellencamp; Mercury 4★

It's a real good song. Just don't turn up the volume or your mon will say it's a rumpus. Sure it's been two years since we last heard from him, but let's look at the fact that he and the rest of the guys took time out to learn some new instruments and add to the melodic hard rock of his music.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

see
THE CHALK CIRCLE
PLAYERS
of
BISHOP FORD HIGH
SCHOOL
in
Neil Simon's
BRIGHTON BEACH
MEMOIRS
on
December 11 and 12
in our auditorium

Starring:
David Ortiz
Karen Fabricatore
John Ryan
Catherine Smith
Courtney Nash
Colleen Martin
Lawrence Callahan

My Life As A Dog Is A Real Howl

by Jasmine Savio

"My Life As a Dog" is the award-winning film about a young boy growing up in Sweden. The movie shows you a two-year period in which the young boy, Inguar, is making a fascinating comparison between himself and a dog. He experiences feelings of death, loneliness and rejection, as well as love and friendship.

The film is brilliantly directed by the world-renowned director, Lasse Hallstrom. Every aspect of the movie is precise, from its acting to its cinematography. It has the true air of a European film, and is worthy of all the excellent press it has received.

Hallstrom brings together humor and the different stages of man's sensuality. We first see the young boy, Inguar, and his relationship to women; then we are brought to see his uncle and an elderly man's relationship to women.

The movie combines humor with the portrayal of innocence and curiosity so unbelievably, you will find yourself totally involved throughout the film.

The title is deceptive, making the film sound as if it is geared toward children. It is, however, for any age group to enjoy.

The performances by the young actors are the best I have ever seen. The film far surpasses any I have seen in a while.

The movie has no rating, and employs subtitles, since it is in Swedish.

Student Spotlight: Maria Carmona, President Of The Student Body

by Raquel Rodriguez

Maria Carmona, also known as "Hershey," is the Bishop Ford student body president. Her aim is to get things done. Simple as that. Feeling the school needed some changes, she thought that by getting elected, she would have the opportunity to make them. Throughout her term she plans to have dances and a talent show and in general please the students. With the help of Vice President Jobina Cardenas and the rest of her administration (Maria Carmona, Natalie Maldonado, Robert McDermott, Henry Diaz and Myra Lemore), she plans to make the school a better place. As the first female president, she knows she will have to live up to what is expected of her and do as good a job (if not better than) as her male predecessors.

The past presidents have always appeared to be very distant, seated in the privileged senior section of the cafeteria, isolated from the majority of the students. Wanting to be thought of differently, Maria urges people to come to her with their suggestions. Caring about the people is her first step towards being a good president, one worthy of her position.

Because she has a variety of interests, you are most likely to see her everywhere, all of the time! After high school, she plans to go to college, and she would like to be an accountant for a corporate lawyer. When asked what she would like to change most if she could, she responded, "Lack of school spirit." Without this important factor, getting things accomplished will be twice as hard. But, no fear, her aim is getting things done. She hopes she will not be the last female president, and she encourages more girls to run. We'll be hearing from her soon because she has something planned for all the classes. We'll just have to wait and hope for the best.

Being a good president includes having an open mind and an open heart. Having been helpful to the students and benefiting them any way she can is part of the legacy she would like to leave us after her term is over, setting an example for future presidents.

And when asked how she would like to be thought of after she leaves, she commented she would like to hear people say, "Maria is a very compassionate person, one who gets along with everyone, and one who gets things done."

